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OLC 73-0359

20 March 1973

MEMORANDUM FOR THE RECORD

SUBJECT: Conversation with Messrs. Ed Braswell and Jim Woolsey,
Senate Armed Services Committee staff, Re CIARDS
Retirement Ceiling

25X1 1. In a fairly lengthy conversation this evening John Maury and I took up with Braswell and Woolsey several alternative solutions to the problem of the CIARDS ceiling. These included a bill to raise the ceiling to approximately [] a plan for the granting of severance pay with retirement effective 1 July 1974, and the possibility of legislation to provide separation benefits to Agency employees upon the completion of 10 years of service.

2. With regard to raising the ceiling to [] Braswell commented 25X1 that while this could be done the Director would have to come before the Committee and make a strong justification for the need for the increase. He added, however, that we should be aware of the possibility that any attempt to increase the present ceiling could result in the imposition of a new ceiling for the period beyond 1964. He also pointed out that no one could predict whether floor debate on such legislation would precipitate riders being submitted to amend the Agency's legislation in some restrictive way. Of course this is a gamble you take any time CIA legislation is debated on the floor.

3. Braswell said he thought any system to provide benefits to Agency employees separated after the expiration of 10 years was a lost cause. Furthermore, he felt we would have difficulty in getting Administration support for such a proposal. He cited discussions between their staff and representatives of the Pentagon on legislation to assist the Secretary of

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Defense in reducing personnel but apparently DOD was never able to get it by the White House. He did point out, however, that it might be possible to provide some kind of lump sum payment for employees separated after 10 years of service as an inducement but this would be subject to the same kind of discussion that would apply to legislative efforts to change the present CIARDS ceiling.

4. Braswell said he didn't recall precisely what the statutory provisions were with respect to severance or termination payments. He was of the opinion, however, that if the Agency had sufficient authority to make a payment to an employee equivalent to as much as one year's salary with retirement effective 1 July 1974 such a solution would be preferable to the introduction of legislation to increase the ceiling.

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/s/ Deputy Legislative Counsel

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